

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 11389 161238Z

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6638

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 11389

LIMDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PDIP PFOR VE

SUBJ: READINESS OF USG TO RECEIVE SPECIAL ENVOY FROM VENEZUELA:  
FONMIN SCHACHT SUGGESTS US REPRESENTATIVE COME HERE

REF: A STATE 251337; B STATE 252031

1. I SAW FONMIN SCHACHT AT 5:30 THIS AFTERNOON (NOV 15). HE WAS NERVOUS AND HIS MIND DID NOT AT ALL FOCUS ON FORWARD CONSIDERATIONS AS TO THE FATE OF THE OAS OR THE RIO TREATY ALTHOUGH I MADE THE POINTS SUGGESTED IN REF B.

2. SCHACHT AGITATEDLY STARTED OUR CONVERSATION BY SAYING IT WAS A GREAT PITY THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD NOT BEEN AT QUITO. I REFUSED TO BE DRAWN UPON THIS TOPIC AND MERELY LOOKED AT HIM. HE THEN DEFENSIVELY CHANGED THE SUBJECT TO SAY THAT, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT MET ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS AT QUITO, HE HAD HAD A TALK WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL AND THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR A REPRESENTATIVE TO COME DOWN FROM WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS AGENDA FOR FUTURE BILATERAL TAKS. I POINTED OUT THAT ACCORDING TO INGERSOLL'S TELEGRAM TO THE DEPT, SCHACHT'S ORIGINAL FORMULATION OF THIS PROPOSAL HAD BEEN THAT EITHER A VENEZUELAN  
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PAGE 02 CARACA 11389 161238Z

ENVOY WOULD GO TO WASHINGTON OR AN AMERICAN TO CARACAS. HE

AGREED THAT THIS WAS THE CASE BUT AFTER HE HAD READ SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER AS SET OUT REF A, HE SAID ON THE WHOLE HE THOUGHT IT PREFERABLE FOR THE US TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO VENEZUELA.

3. SCHACHT ADDUCED AS THE PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR THIS RECOMMENDATION THAT THIS WOULD HAVE THE DOUBLE ADVANTAGE OF THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE MEETING IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ; AND THAT IT WOULD HAVE WHAT HE POLITELY REFERRED TO AS THE ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE OF MY OWN PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA. THE THIRD CONSIDERATION WHICH CAME UP WHEN HE RE-READ THE SECRETARY'S LETTER WAS THAT HE, SCHACHT, IS LEAVING FOR LIMA ON DEC 4. THIS WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO ACCEPT THE SECRETARY'S INVITATION TO COME TO WASHINGTON IN THE FIRST WEEK OF DEC. HE ADDED THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ WILL BE INVOLVED IN CELEBRATIONS AT CUMANA IN HONOR OF MARSHAL SUCRE, THE VICTOR OF AYACUCHO, AND THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD THEN DEPART DEC 7 FOR LIMA TO BE ON HAND FOR THE SESQUICENTENNIAL DATE, DEC 9. AFTER THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ WITH AN HONOR GUARD OF VENEZUELAN TROOPS COSTUMED IN THE UNIFORMS OF 1824 WOULD DEPLOY TO THE ACTUAL SITE OF THE BATTLEFIELD AT AYACUCHO. PRESUMABLY THEREFORE THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE ABSENT FROM VENEZUELA FOR THE BETTER PART OF ONE WEEK.

4. WE AGREED THAT WHOEVER WENT TO WHICH CAPITAL, IT WOULD NOT BE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS BUT TO OUTLINE THE MAIN HEADINGS FOR FUTURE CONVERSATIONS AND ULTIMATE NEGOTIATIONS. SCHACHT SAID HE WOULD AT ONCE CONSULT WITH PRESIDENT PERZ ON THE SECRETARY'S LETTER AND WOULD CALL ME ON MONDAY, NOV 18.

5. COMMENT: SCHACHT WAS EMBARRASSED AND ON THE DEFENSIVE ALTHOUGH INVARIABLY POLITE AND CORDIAL. HIS REFERENCE TO THE DESIRABILITY OF BEING CLOSE TO PRESIDENT PEREZ IF AN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD COME TO CARACAS WAS REINFORCED BY HIS STATEMENT, " AFTER ALL, HE IS THE ONE WHO MAKES THE DECISIONS"--AN ENLIGHTENING CORROBORATION OF MY PREVIOUSLY RECORDED VIEWS THAT SCHACHT DOES NOTHING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE. IT MAY ALSO REVEAL HIS APPREHENSION THAT UNLESS HE STICKS VERY CLOSELY THESE DAYS TO NO ONE HE MAY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 11389 161238Z

FIND HIMSELF ABRUPTLY SEPARATED FROM THE PRESENCE.

6. IN CONSEQUENCE, I ANTICIPATE THAT ON MONDAY I SHALL BE TOLD THAT AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA, IT IS DESIRED THAT WE ENTER ON CONVERSATIONS FORTHWITH TO WORK UP AN AGENDA FOR AN EVENTUAL, MORE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATION, LOOKING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LONG RANGE OBJECTIVES AND LINES OF POLICY WHICH WILL SERVE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

7. BECAUSE OF MY DESIRE TO PREVENT PRESIDENT PERZ FROM USING THE PODIUM IN PERU TO MAKE CONTINUING INJURIOUS STATEMENTS AGAINST THE US, AND SINCE UNDER PRESENT INSTRUCTIONS I APPARENTLY AM NOT TO SEE THE PRESIDENT, I THINK THE IMMEDIATE TACTIC TO FOLLOW IS TO ENGAGE THE VENEZUELAN IN CONVERSATIONS IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS OVER THE AGENDA OF FUTURE BILATERAL TALKS. SHOULD WE SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO CARACAS (AND SINCE ACCORDING TO THE FONMIN THE PRESIDENT WILL BE LEANING ON HIS ELBOW TO WATCH THE PROGRES OF SUCH TALKS), I WILL HAVE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO INSINUATE THE IDEA THAT ON BOTH SIDES THERE SHOULD BE NO FURTHER PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS. IN THIS BELIEF I AM STRENGTHENED BY SCHACHT'S ADDITIONAL REMARK THAT HE HOPED A US REPRESENTATIVE WOULD COME TO CARACAS WITHOUT, RPT WITOUT PUBLICITY.

8. SCHACHT SUGGESTED THAT, AFTER HEADS OF AN AGENDA COULD BE AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE TWO GOVTS, AND AFTER HIS OWN AND PRESIDENT PEREZ'S RETURN FROM PERU, THE GOVT HERE WOULD BE CLOSE TO CHRISTMAS AND THEREFORE PERHAPS SERIOUS AND MORE FORMAL CONVERSATIONS COULD BE UNDERTAKEN EARLY IN JANUARY AT A VENUE LATER TO BE DETERMINED.

9. SINCE, AS I ANTICIPTE, THE DECISION OF PRESIDENT PEREZ WILL BE TO EXPRESS HOPE THAT WE CAN SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO CARACAS ALONG THE TERMS OUTLINED ABOVE, AND SINCE THE FONMIN DOES NOT WANT PUBLICITY, THIS WOULD SEEM TO OBIATE THE SUGGESTION OF DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS SHOULD BE THE INITIAL ENVOY. IN THIS CASE MY UNHESITATING RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE THAT IF THE SITE FOR THE TALKS THE NEXT FORTNIGHT BE CARACAS, THE DEPT ASSIGN FRANK DEVINE TO UNDERTAKE THESE DISCUSSIONS OF A POSSIBLE AGENDA. MR DEVINE IS HIGHLY REGARDED THROUGHOUT VENEZUELA, HELD THE RANK OF MINISTER WHILE ASSIGNED TO CARACAS, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CARACA 11389 161238Z

AND HIS PRESENCE HERE AS HEAD OF THE OFFICE OF NORTH COAST AFFAIRS WOULD OCCASION NO COMMENT. FURTHERMORE, HE HAS MY COMPLETE CONFIDENCE AND IN THE THREE YEARS OF OUR CLOSE ASSOCIATION NEVER MADE A MISTAKE.  
MCCLINTOCK

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